

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SURABA 00019 160315Z

64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /098 W

----- 111764

R 150630Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0381

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SURABAYA 0019

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID

SUBJECT: PRIESTS PROTEST IN JOGJAKARTA

REF: SURABAYA PRESS REVIEW 74007, JAN 11

SUMMARY: NEW ELEMENT HAS BEEN INJECTED INTO CURRENT PROTEST MOVEMENT
IN JOGJA BY ACTION OF GROUP OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS WHO PRESENTED PETITION

LETTER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF "COMMON PEOPLE" OF THEIR
PARISHES. RELEASE OF LETTER TO LOCAL (AND NATIONAL) PRESS AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE HAVE ALSO RAISED LONG-STANDING ISSUE
OF PRESS FREEDOM IN JOGJA DISTRICT, WITH LOCAL PRESS ASSOCIATION
DEFENDING PRIESTS' MOVE. WHILE PROSPECTS OF SIGNIFICANT IMMEDIATE
INCREASE IN SCOPE OF CURRENT PROTEST ACTIVITIES AS
RESULT OF PRIESTS' ACTIONS ARE NOT GREAT, DUE TO RELATIVE WEAKNESS OF
CATHOLIC GROUP IN JOGJA POLITICAL SCENE, IF PRIESTS' ACTION STIMULATES

OTHER NON-STUDENT GROUPS TO BECOME SIMILARLY INVOLVED IN CURRENT
FERMENT

ULTIMATE EFFECT MAY BE TO TURN PREVIOUSLY STUDENT-DOMINATED PROTESTS
INTO MORE GENERAL -- AND POWERFUL -- MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SURABA 00019 160315Z

1. NEW ELEMENT WAS INJECTED INTO CURRENT PROTEST MOVEMENT IN

JOGJA AREA, UNTIL NOW NEARLY MONOPOLIZED BY STUDENT GROUPS, WITH PRESENTATION TO JOGJA DISTRICT GOVERNMENT ON JAN 8 OF PROTEST LETTER SIGNED BY 41 LOCAL CATHOLIC PRIESTS. (SEPTTEL REPORTS SOMEWHAT SIMILAR DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST JAVA). LETTER, WHICH COMPLAINED TO GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF PRIESTS' PARISHONERS, CITED GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR AND DISTRUST OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHICH CAUSED POOR PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS, TO BE RELUCTANT TO EXPRESS VIEWS OR IN ANY WAY PARTICIPATE IN THE "TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION" PROCESS NOW BEING CALLED FOR BY NATIONAL LEADERS. PRIESTS STATED THAT IN THIS SITUATION THEY FELT CALLED UPON TO FORWARD VIEWS OF COMMON PEOPLE TO GOVERNMENT.

2. PRIESTS RELEASED THEIR LETTER TO LOCAL PRESS, AND NATIONAL DAILY KOMPAS ALSO CARRIED STORY (REF). IN REACTION TO PUBLICATION OF LETTER, JOGJA MUSPIDA (LEADERSHIP COUNCIL) JAN 10 CALLED LEADERS OF PRIESTS GROUP TO MEETING AT WHICH MUSPIDA CONDEMNED RELEASE OF LETTER AND QUESTIONED PRIESTS ON POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LETTER AND STUDENT PROTEST MOVEMENT. PRIESTS DEFENDED PUBLICATION AND DENIED CONNECTIONS WITH STUDENTS. FOLLOWING DAY JOGJA PRESS ASSOCIATION (PWI) RELEASED STATEMENT DEFENDING PUBLICATION OF LETTER AS PROPER FUNCTION OF LOCAL PRESS AND REGRETTING "CAUTIOUS AND SUSPICIOUS" ATTITUDE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND "GULF" BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRESS.

3. COMMENT: JOGJA GOVERNMENT HAS IN PAST BEEN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TOWARDS CRITICISM AND CONTROVERSY PARTICULARLY WHEN PUBLICIZED IN LOCAL PRESS, AND HAS TRIED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO KILL LOCAL PUBLICATION OF CONTROVERSIAL STORIES (E.G. BANDUNG RIOTS). EDITORS OF ONE JOGJA DAILY HAVE TOLD CONOFF THAT LOCAL PRESS HAS IN PAST BEEN "SCOOPED" BY OTHER REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PAPERS ON SUCH STORIES DUE TO LOCAL PRESSURE NOT TO PUBLISH. PRIESTS' LETTER THUS COMBINES ISSUES OF CURRENT PROTEST MOVEMENT WITH OLDER ISSUE OF PRESS FREEDOM IN DISTRICT, NOW CLEARLY JOINED BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRESS ASSOCIATION. ALTHOUGH PRIESTS DENY CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR LETTER AND RECENT STUDENT PROTESTS, PRIESTS (NUMBER OF WHOM ARE OF DUTCH OR CHINESE ORIGIN) DO NOT REPRESENT STRONG GROUP ON LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE AND IT QUESTIONABLE WHETHER LETTER WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENTED IN ABSENCE OF SIMILAR ACTIVITIES ON PART OF STRONGER GROUPS SUCH AS STUDENTS. AS BRIDGE BETWEEN EDUCATED COMMUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SURABA 00019 160315Z

(ONE OF MAJOR JOGJA ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IS CATHOLIC TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE) AND COMMON PEOPLE OF JOGJA DISTRICT (MANY TEACHING PRIESTS ALSO HAVE PARISHES), PRIESTS IN PRESENTING LETTER AT THIS TIME HAVE RAISED POSSIBILITY OF SPREAD OF CURRENT PROTEST MOVEMENT TO WIDER GROUPS, FACT OF WHICH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE AND WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY PLAYED A ROLE IN GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO LETTER. DOUBTFUL THAT PRIESTS' ACTION ALONE WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE WIDENING OF SCOPE OF PROTEST MOVEMENT, BUT IF OTHER

GROUPS FOLLOW LEAD OF PRIESTS ULTIMATE RESULT COULD BE BROADER --
AND MORE POWERFUL -- PROTEST MOVEMENT IN JOGJA AREA THAN PREVIOUS
STUDENT-BASED ACTIVITIES.

RANDOLPH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CLERGYMEN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SURABA00019
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SURABAYA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740139/aaaablv.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SURABAYA PRESS REVIEW 74007, JAN 11
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIESTS PROTEST IN JOGJAKARTA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005